

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as the claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 are cancelled. This rejection, therefore, is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-351273 (hereinafter, JP '273); Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,755,314); and Claims 1-3 and either 4 or 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2003-42185 (hereinafter, JP '185). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 are cancelled. These rejections, therefore, are moot.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 6-9 are added. New independent Claim 6 recites:

6. A piston for an automobile transmission that includes a clutch, the piston comprising:
a piston main body including a first section extending radially relative to an axis of the piston, a second section extending axially relative

to said axis from an end of said first section, and a third section extending radially outward relative to said axis from an end of said second section, said piston main body movable along said axis within an annular hole;

a reinforcement member separate and apart from said piston main body that is provided on and directly contacts an outer periphery of said second section and directly contacts said third section; and

a first sealing member provided on the reinforcement member and having a first seal lip for sealing an outer surface of the annular hole,

wherein said reinforcement member extends axially from said third section into a root of said first seal lip, and

said third section being adapted to contact the clutch as said piston main body moves axially within said annular hole.

Support for new Claim 6 may be found at, for example, Figure 1. No new matter is added. Referring to Figure 1, there may be seen a piston main body 111 including a first section 111d extending radially relative to an axis O of the piston, a second section 111e extending axially relative to the axis O from an end of the first section 111d, and a third section 111f extending radially outward relative the axis O from an end of the second section 111e. A reinforcement member 112 that is separate and apart from the piston main body 111 is provided on and directly contacts an outer periphery of the second section 111e and directly contacts the third section 111f. A first sealing member 113 is provided on the reinforcement member 112 and has a first seal lip 113a for sealing an outer surface 102a of the annular hole 102. The reinforcement member 112 extends axially away from the third section 111f into a root of the first seal lip 113a. Lastly, the third section 111f contacts a clutch 105 as the piston main body 111 moves axially within the annular hole 102.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the above-noted piston. In this regard, JP '273 fails to disclose a reinforcement member "separate and apart" from a piston main body.

Regarding Kanda, Kanda fails to disclose a “third section” that contacts a clutch. In this regard, although Kanda teaches a portion 48 that contacts a clutch 74 (see Figure 2 of Kanda), Claim 6 further recites that the “reinforcement member” directly contacts the “third section.” Again referring to Figure 2 of Kanda, it may be seen that the alleged “reinforcement member” (inboard from numeral 42) does not directly contact element 48. Accordingly, Kanda also fails to disclose the features of Claim 6.

Lastly, regarding JP ‘185, Applicants respectfully submit that JP ‘185 fails to disclose, at a minimum, a “reinforcement member [that] extends axially from said third section into a root of said first seal lip.” In contrast, JP ‘185 discloses a member 13 that extends radially into a root of a lip 12a. This is different from the claimed configuration and, therefore, JP ‘185 fails to anticipate Claim 6.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 6-9 are neither anticipated nor obvious, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of new Claims 6-9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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